

# Report-back on proposed Wildlife Advocacy Group

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9<sup>th</sup> International Wildlife Ranching Symposium

Windhoek, September 2016

# Background

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Meeting held March 22-23, 2016, in Pretoria:

## **A Vision for a Coherent African Wildlife Industry**

Kindly supported by WRSA and MLP Media

Delegates from wildlife (ranching) sector, government, academia and NGOs  
from South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Kenya  
(also Switzerland and Singapore)



# Rationale

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- Wildlife ranching under threat from closure of global markets, motivated by international NGOs, activists and policies that fail to understand and recognize the southern African sustainable use approach to conservation
- Rhino horn trade / trophy hunting as examples
- Need to engage more effectively in the global public policy debate
- Identify issues to be addressed

# Wildlife ranching challenges and needs

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Intensification

Social transformation

Ethics and standards

Research: better data and analysis

Policy engagement at all levels

Improved communication

# What was achieved?

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- Excellent, informative background presentations
- Start of constructive dialogue between stakeholders
- Four working groups formed
- Modest action plan



# Working Groups

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1. Gathering information on wildlife ranching

Data collection and analysis of relevant conservation and economic contributions

2. Reviewing existing governance

Institutional and policy analysis, identify constraints, engage with policy- and decision-makers to improve governance

3. Building a business case linked to regional upliftment

Develop a strategic plan for collective leadership

4. Educating /communicating with stakeholders effectively

Develop a PR, communications and education / extension strategy

# Vision statement

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SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE ADVOCACY FORUM

*‘Africa’s resources for Africa’s people’*

To drive a new wave of development and prosperity in southern Africa through the sustainable use of our unique wildlife assets.

# Modest action plan

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- Side event at CITES
- Working groups to continue
- Forum launch?
- Follow-up meeting?



# Progress to date and challenges

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Subsequent dialogue, but nothing public

Established some commitments for steering committee

CITES side event to go ahead

Limited time of volunteers (we are all really busy)

Strong WRSA support, but many others still need convincing

# Proposed way forward

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- Follow-up meeting (March 2017) to
  - establish research protocols and plans for Working Groups 1 and 2
  - develop agenda and MO for Working Groups 3 and 4
- Explore possibility of larger 'Wildlife Economy' conference in 2018